What is claimed is:

1. A device, comprising:

a housing;

a transmissive display panel mounted in a first location in said housing, the display panel including first and second surfaces; and

a device for directing ambient light entering said housing through a second location, which is different from the first location, through the second surface of the display panel.

2. The device of claim 1, wherein the device for directing ambient light includes a reflector.

3. The device of claim 2, wherein said reflector is a diffuse reflector.

4. The device of claim 1, further comprising:

a diffuser located behind said transmissive display panel for diffusing at least some of said ambient light before it passes through the rear portion of the display panel.

5. The device of claim 4, further comprising:

a hinge for attaching the device for directing ambient light to said housing.

6. The device of claim 5, further comprising:

an additional hinge for securing the diffuser to said housing.

7. The device of claim 6,

wherein the hinge for attaching the device for directing ambient light is secured to a bottom portion of said housing; and

wherein the additional hinge for securing the diffuser is secured to a top portion of said housing.

8. The device of claim 7, further comprising:

a base attached to said housing, the base including:

a keyboard.

9. The device of claim 8, further comprising:

a backlight positioned behind the transmissive display panel.

10. The device of claim 4, further comprising:

a backlight used to generate light directed at the rear portion of the display panel.

11. The device of claim 5, further comprising:

a backlight located internal to said housing for generating light used to illuminate said display panel.

12. The device of claim 11, wherein a housing opening is located at the second housing location and wherein the diffuser is mounted in the housing opening.

13. The device of claim 11, wherein said diffuser is mounted within the housing between the second housing location and the second surface of the display panel.

14. The device of claim 11, wherein said diffuser is mounted inside said housing between said second location and the second surface of the display panel.

15. The device of claim 11, wherein the device for directing ambient light includes a light tunnel located between said second location and said rear portion of the display panel.

16. A display device, comprising:

a transmissive display panel including a viewing surface and a non-viewing surface; and

means for directing ambient light originating from behind the viewing and non-viewing surfaces of the display panel, to said non-viewing surface.

17. The display device of claim 16, further comprising:

a diffuser for diffusing the ambient light directed to the non-viewing surface of the display panel.

18. The display device of claim 17, further comprising:

hinge means for connecting the means for directing ambient light to the second surface of the transmissive display panel.

19. The display device of claim 17, further comprising:

display panel positioning means for adjusting the angle of the display panel relative to a horizontal position to thereby allow for adjustments in the amount of ambient light incident on at least one of the first and second display panel surfaces.

20. The display device of claim 18, further comprising:

a backlight for supplementing the ambient light directed to the non-viewing surface of the transmissive display panel.

21. A method of displaying an image using a transmissive display panel having a front viewing surface and a rear non-viewing surface, comprising the step of:

directing ambient light from behind the transmissive display panel to the rear non-viewing surface of said transmissive display panel; and

controlling the transmissive display panel to block some of the directed ambient light from passing through the transmissive display panel.

22. The method of claim 20, wherein said ambient light is a natural light source located external to the transmissive display panel.

23. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

using a diffuse reflector to direct the ambient light.

24. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:

using a diffuser to diffuse the ambient light directed to the rear non-viewing surface of said transmissive display panel.

25. The method of claim 23, further comprising the step of:

attaching the diffuse reflector to the display panel using a hinge.

26. The method of claim 21, further comprising the step of:

using a backlight to supplement the ambient light directed to the rear non-viewing surface of the display panel.

27. The method of claim 26, wherein the display panel includes at least one liquid crystal cell.

28. A transreflective display device, comprising:

a housing;

a display panel mounted in a first location in said housing, the display panel including first and second surfaces;

a transmissive reflector located between said first location and the second surface of the display panel;

a device for directing ambient light entering said housing through a second location, which is different from the first location, through the transmissive reflector and the second surface of the display panel.

29. The display device of claim 28, further comprising: a backlight mounted inside the housing behind the transmissive reflector for supplementing the ambient

light directed to the rear portion of the display panel; the transmissive reflector being located between the backlight and second display panel surface.

30. The display device of claim ~~26~~ 28, wherein the first display panel surface is a front viewing surface.